

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1, 3-20, 22-27, and 35-59 are pending. Claims 2, 21, and 28-34 are canceled. Claims 3, 6-8, 10-12, 14, 17, 35, and 38-44 are amended. Claims 45-59 are new. New claim 45 is supported, for example, in the specification at paragraph [0018], new claims 46-48 are supported in the specification at paragraph [0017], and new claim 49 is supported in the specification at paragraph [0016]. New claims 51 and 52 are supported in the specification at paragraph [0064], new claims 53-57 are supported in the specification at paragraph [0035], and new claims 58 and 59 are supported in the specification at paragraph [0036].

Due to the amendments made herein, the restriction requirement between Groups I and II is moot. Applicants respectfully request that claims 35-44 be rejoined with the elected Group I claims (claims 1-27) because amended claims 35-44 depend directly or indirectly from claims 1, 12, and 17.

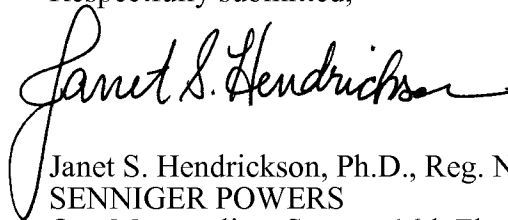
Applicants elect Group I (claims 1-27) and further elect the species of sodium-binding compositions comprising a sodium-binding polymer or an acid resin.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance and requests early allowance of the pending claims.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge \$1020.00 to Deposit Account No. 19-1345 for a three month extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any under payment or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 19-1345.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Janet S. Hendrickson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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